

Kia Wassenaar
Miller Arts Scholars
Fall 2019 Minigrant Outcome Report

Project: Scenes in Print

My Fall 2019 Minigrant Project, Scenes in Print, resulted in the high quality reproduction of 6 of my works. I was able to test out a variety of services such as Society 6 and Redbubble as well as several local printing shops to determine which company yielded the most vibrant, true-to-original reproductions. Given the particularly colorful nature of my work, I knew printing would be a process of trial and error, so having the resources to try a range of services proved to be an invaluable opportunity. This project pushed my interest in using programs like Adobe Photoshop to transform landscape photographs into often unrecognizable but equally compelling visual spaces and develop a style of art I will continue to pursue beyond this project.

The type of paper, the method of printing, and the way that the piece is electronically packaged all contribute to the success of a print. Going forward, I feel much more knowledgeable when deciding how and where to print my work. I hope to use this information to continue to make physical versions of my work, and will be submitting the prints I made for this project to several local galleries around the Charlottesville area. Not only is it personally rewarding to physically hold a piece of work that originated in a digital/non-physical space, but it is also reassuring because in some ways it validates the piece. Digital work can feel very amorphous or perpetually unfinished because you can always go back and edit it, so having “finished” versions of my work is really exciting. It also increases the visibility of the work by allowing it to interact with real spaces and people. I am incredibly grateful to the Miller Arts Scholars program for making this project possible.

Budget: I was able to stick to my proposed budget of \$500. About \$200 went towards experimenting with various printing companies that did not actually yield prints that I was satisfied with. The other \$300 was spent with the companies Redbubble and Society 6, and yielded more prints than I had initially anticipated because of Redbubble’s extremely low prices, resulting in 20 high quality photographic prints.

Timeline: Immediately upon receipt of funds, I ordered a first round of prints from a local printing company, which yielded four prints that did not seem to adequately reproduce the colors of the original work. At the end of December, I ordered another round of prints from both Redbubble and Society 6. Ultimately, the prints from Redbubble were of higher quality and were more affordable, with their photographic prints proving best by far in terms of color and finish. My next step will be to ask around at coffee shops and galleries that might be willing to feature my work.

Photos of some of the finished prints:

